

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 068410

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ORIGIN AGR-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 SNM-02 ARA-08 BNDE-00 NSC-10

NSCE-00 AID-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 JUSE-00

OMB-01 IO-03 SCI-03 USIA-04 SY-02 /072 R

DRAFTED BY USDA: QJONES: BB

4/12/73 344-3930

APPROVED BY S/ NM: HRWELLMAN

ARA/ NSC- IG: GLISTER

ARA/ MEX: FALBERTI

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P 122112 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT NARCOTICS: HERBICIDE RESEARCH PROJECT

REF: MEXICO 2420

1. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL FOLLOW:

A. PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF USG DRUG ENFORCEMENT
AGENCIES (DEPT. CA 2946, APRIL 4, 1973) DOES
NOT EFFECT USDA NARCOTICS RESEARCH PROGRAM OR
HIGH PRIORITY OF SUBJECT PROJECT.

B. ALL SUBSTANCES PROPOSED FOR EXPERIMENTAL FIELD
TESTING IN MEXICO ARE COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE
CHEMICALS PRESENTLY USED AS HERBICIDES IN CROP
PRODUCTION IN THE US AND ELSEWHERE; NONE OF THESE
WAS USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES IN VIETNAM;
ACCEPTABLE SELECTIVITY CHARACTERISTICS ARE KNOWN

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PAGE 02 STATE 068410

FOR THESE CHEMICALS BASED ON STANDARDS SET BY THE
US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

C. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, DR. JORGE NIETO IS THE ONLY
MEXICAN SCIENTIST WHO HAS VISITED BELTSVILLE TO
REVIEW NARCOTICS RESEARCH. HE REVIEWED OUR TOTAL
PROGRAM AT BELTSVILLE. WE HAD NO FIELD PLANTINGS
AT THAT TIME.

2. SUGGEST EMBASSY EMPHASIZE TO CASTRO Y CASTRO THAT
WEED CONTROL RESEARCH IS BEING DONE IN MEXICO
AND THAT PROPOSED PROJECT WOULD EXTEND COVERAGE TO OPIUM
POPPY AND MARIHUANA. DATA GENERATED IN GREENHOUSE AT
BELTSVILLE MUST BE CONFIRMED IN FIELD EXPERIMENTS
SUCH AS ARE PROPOSED IN MEXICO PRIOR TO POSSIBLE
DEVELOPMENT OF A PROGRAM, WHICH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE
TO ANY INTERESTED COUNTRY, FOR CHEMICAL CONTROL OF
ILLCIT PRODUCTION OF NARCOTIC PLANTS. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE068410
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: QJONES: BB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730440/aaaagud.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AG
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 73 MEXICO 2420
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <22 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971229
Subject: NARCOTICS: HERBICIDE RESEARCH PROJECT
TAGS: SNAR, MX
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005